

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 585

By Walley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Wayne Jerrolds for his contributions to the State of Tennessee as a champion fiddler.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Wayne Jerrolds, a highly respected member of his community who has dedicated himself to improving the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, growing up in a small rural Hardin County community called Burnt Church, Mr. Jerrolds was raised on a farm, and his father, Paul Jerrolds, taught him the virtue of work and the faith that would follow him to the present; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jerrolds was first introduced to music at the social dance events held at his uncle Grover Neill's home, where he first heard the fiddle; he bought a guitar with the money he earned from selling seeds and was taught how to play the instrument by his Aunt Imogene Hosea; and

WHEREAS, after finally saving up enough money from selling eggs, he bought a fiddle and learned to play from his uncle R. D. Smith; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Mr. Jerrolds won the Mid-South Fair fiddling contest and earned the chance to compete on Ted Mack's Amateur Hour in Miami, where he arrived after riding in a tomato truck, having traded in his airplane ticket due to his fear of heights; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, he and his musical talents were featured in *Walking Tall*, a made-for-television movie starring Brian Dennehy, about the life of Buford Pusser, a subject he would later write about in the song "Sheriff Pusser"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jerrolds played his first world's fair in Knoxville in 1982, and in 1983, he played on the Opryland-produced, syndicated television show *Fire on the Mountain*; and

WHEREAS, a one-time member of "Father of Bluegrass" Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys, Mr. Jerrolds has won the Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama State Fiddling Contests, in addition to being the longest-winning fiddler on record; and

WHEREAS, he also traveled with Annette Byrd, also known as Tammy Wynette, in the early days of his career and has appeared on the Grand Ole Opry more than 100 times, in addition to being the only remaining original board member of the Country Christmas & HeeHaw Productions; and

WHEREAS, he is the inventor of the "Fidd-O-Lin," a mandolin on one side and a fiddle on the other, because of his need to have both instruments at hand during performances; and

WHEREAS, beyond his many public contributions to the music world, Mr. Jerrolds has also dedicated his time and efforts to perform monthly for nursing homes and charity benefits for over half a century; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Jerrolds epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly acknowledge and applaud Wayne Jerrolds for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Wayne Jerrolds for his

lifetime of contributions to his community, the State of Tennessee, and the art of music, extending to him our best wishes for much continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.